

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A backplane apparatus comprising:  
a common bus comprising a plurality of signal lines, each signal line of the common bus having a current limiting element, RA of impedance RA d.c. coupled to a first supply level; and  
isolation circuitry for electrically coupling each of the plurality of signal lines of the common bus to a corresponding plurality of signal lines of an electronic device to enable communication between the common bus and the electronic device through the isolation circuitry, the isolation circuitry having an impedance RD, wherein  $(RA+RD) \geq 3.3K\Omega$ , wherein  $RD \leq 25K\Omega$ .
2. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:  
a connector for removably coupling the plurality of signal lines of the electronic device to the plurality of signal lines of the common bus through the isolation circuitry.
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the isolation circuitry for each signal line comprises an inline resistor having an impedance of RD.
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 3 1 wherein RD has a value in a range of approximately 1 K $\Omega$  to 25 K $\Omega$ .
5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein a first terminal of the current limiting element is coupled to the first supply level, wherein the apparatus further comprises switching circuitry, wherein the switching circuitry selectively couples a second terminal of the current limiting element to a second supply level. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein isolation circuitry for at least one of the signal lines further comprises a pull up resistor.

6. (CANCELED)

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein RA is in a range of 10 Ω to 5 KΩ. claim 6 wherein RA has a value in a range of approximately 10 Ω to 5 KΩ.

8. (CANCELED)

9. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the isolation circuitry comprises passive components.

10. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the isolation circuitry comprises active components.

11. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the electronic device is a disk drive.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A backplane apparatus comprising:  
a common bus comprising a plurality of signal lines, each signal line having first terminal of an associated first current limiting element d.c. coupled to a first supply level, the first current limiting element of impedance RA;

isolation circuitry electrically coupling each of the plurality of signal lines of the common bus to a plurality of electronic devices, each device having a corresponding plurality of signal lines to enable communication of signals between the common bus and the plurality of electronic devices; and  
switching circuitry for each signal line of the common bus, wherein each switching circuitry selectively couples a second terminal of the associated first current limiting element to a second supply level to select a logic level of the associated signal line.

~~a common bus comprising a plurality of signal lines, each signal line having a first current limiting element, RA; and~~

— isolation circuitry electrically coupling each of the plurality of signal lines of the common bus to a corresponding plurality of electronic devices, each device having a corresponding plurality of signal lines to enable communication of signals between the common bus and each of the plurality of devices.

13. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising:

a plurality of connectors for removably coupling the plurality of signal lines of each electronic device to the corresponding plurality of signal lines of the common bus through the isolation circuitry.

14. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the isolation circuitry is passive isolation circuitry. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the isolation circuitry coupling the corresponding signal lines comprises an inline resistor, RD, for each signal line.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the isolation circuitry is an inline resistor of impedance RD in a range of 1 K $\Omega$  to 25 K $\Omega$ . The apparatus of claim 14 wherein RD has a value in a range of approximately 1 K $\Omega$  to 25 K $\Omega$ .

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the isolation circuitry is an inline resistor of impedance RD in conjunction with a pull up resistor, wherein RD is less than 1 K $\Omega$ . The apparatus of claim 14 wherein isolation circuitry for at least one of the signal lines further comprises a pull up resistor.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the isolation circuitry is active isolation circuitry. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein RD has a value less than 1 K $\Omega$ .

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18. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein RA for each selected signal line of the common bus is selected to have a value in a range of 10  $\Omega$  to 5 K $\Omega$ .

19. (CANCELED)

20. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the electronic devices include disk drives.

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